Relevant Web Sites

Section of Community Health and EMS

http://www.chems.alaska.gov

Alaska Public Health Training Network

http://www.chems.alaska.gov/phtn

Alaska Public Health Library System

http://lib.chems.alaska.gov

Centrinity.com (software download)

http://www.centrinity.com

Department of Health and Social Services

http://hss.state.ak.us

Division of Emergency Services

http://www.ak-prepared.com

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

http://www.cdc.gov

http://www.bt.cdc.gov

Other Important Programs

Health Alert Network

The Health Alert Network is a nationwide system for:
- Communications and information access
- Workforce development
- Organizational development

The HAN is designed to support the public health response to bioterrorism and other health threats.

Alaska Public Health Training Network

The mission of the Alaska Public Health Training Network (PHTN) is to establish a network of distance learning partners which uses a variety of media to provide educational opportunities that will enhance the knowledge, expertise and skills of Alaska's health and social services workforce. Regularly, the University of Alaska Southeast (Juneau) downlinks public health training programs and tapes them for rebroadcast. On Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:00 or 11:30 am, they rebroadcast or uplink the tapes on AK3. Cable companies throughout Alaska, downlinking the AK3 signal, send the information over the local cable TV station.

For more information on these programs, visit the CHEMS web site.

http://www.chems.alaska.gov

The Alaska Division of Emergency Services' First Class System

Section of Community Health
and
Emergency Medical Services

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 110616
Juneau, AK 99811-0616

907-465-3027
907-465-4101 (fax)

http://www.chems.alaska.gov/

The ADES First Class System

Overview: The Division of Emergency Services (ADES), within the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is responsible by statute for planning for, and responding to, disasters. As part of its efforts, the Division maintains a sophisticated electronic mail and file transfer system based on First Class software, by Centrinity, Inc. The First Class system is accessible to users via dial up and Internet connections. There is no cost for the First Class Client, which is installed on the users' machines. The First Class system is used in many corporate and educational settings, including some school districts in Alaska.

The system is used internally by ADES for real time emergency event management and for planning activities. In the latter role, the First Class System hosts electronic conferences and serves as a meeting area for local emergency planning commissions, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and contains centralized repositories of informational messages from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, the National Weather Service, and the Municipality of Anchorage. Because the ADES First Class Information Management System is located within the same facility as the State Emergency Coordination Center, it has excellent staff support, a back up power supply, and excellent connection to the Internet.

*The system is intended to **augment**, not replace, existing communications pathways with emergency operations centers.*
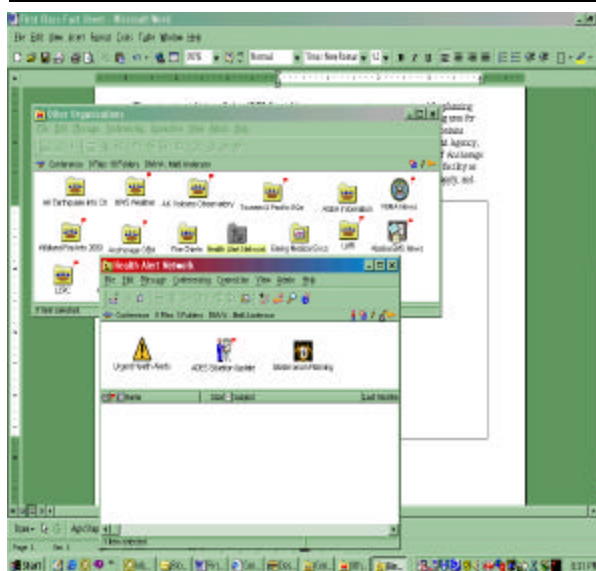

The fact that it is a central focus for emergency responders in a disaster, that it is used on a daily basis by many agencies for emergency planning, and other professional activities, and that it is well supported by the Division of Emergency Services, makes the First Class system an appropriate tool for use by the Department of Health and Social Services as part of its Health Alert Network.

Agencies providing health care, particularly those with additional responsibilities in times of crisis are encouraged to participate in the system.

Conferences on the ADES First Class System

Content on the First Class System is organized by "conference." Dozens of conferences exist on the system. Some of the conferences of relevance to medical personnel and agencies include:

Terrorist Activation
Health Alert Network
Bioterrorism Planning
Hospitals and Clinics
Emergency Medical Services
Public Health Nursing
EMS Physician Medical Directors

Eligibility for Accounts

Agencies providing health care, such as hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, community health centers, ground and air emergency medical services and others, are eligible for an organizational account.

A single account may be used on several computers simultaneously. For example, you can install the software on computers in the emergency department, administration, and other appropriate locations and be able to access your account from all of these computers at the same time.

The use of the First Class system by health care personnel and organizations will facilitate rapid distribution of urgent information and allow emergency managers to more effectively interact with medical facilities and personnel in times of crisis.

Steps in Accessing the First Class System

1. **Request an account.** There is no cost for a First Class Account. Accounts for eligible organizations and individuals are usually set up within two working days.
2. **Download the free client software.** There are versions for both PCs and Apples.
3. **Install and configure the software** on the machines which will be used to access the system.

Requesting an account: To request an account on the ADES First Class system, complete and submit the registration request form at:

http://www.chems.alaska.gov/ems_firstclass.htm

Login Information

Login: _____

Password: _____